

## **FISH and WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET**

**Meeting Date:** April 19, 2018

**Agenda Item:** Boulder Creek Ranch Access Project (R2)

**Division:** Wildlife

**Action Needed:** Endorsement

**Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation:** 5 minutes

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### **Background:**

Five Valleys Land Trust and the Buxbaum family have worked together over the past year to develop and fund a conservation easement for their 1,193-acre ranch in the Flint Range near Maxville. The Buxbaums have agreed to grant a conservation easement that includes perpetual public hunting access for a minimum of 50 hunter days annually. Five Valleys Land Trust proposes to assign the management of public hunting access to Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks. FWP Region 2 would like to pursue management of public hunting access on this property in perpetuity.

### **Public Involvement Process & Results:**

Since this is a new proposal before the Commission, no public comment or involvement has been solicited to date. Requisite public involvement through a draft Environmental Assessment will be sought, pending approval to proceed.

### **Alternatives and Analysis:**

Proposed Action: FWP proposes to work with Five Valleys Land Trust and the Buxbaum family to secure a conservation outcome for the subject property, including the management of perpetual public hunting access assigned to FWP.

No-Action Alternative: FWP would forgo the opportunity to pursue this access opportunity.

### **Agency Recommendation & Rationale:**

FWP recommends that it be allowed to pursue and evaluate this opportunity to receive the assignment of the recreational public access to this property.

### **Proposed Motion:**

I move the Fish and Wildlife Commission endorse FWP's proposal to pursue and evaluate this opportunity to secure public hunting access rights as part of the proposed Buxbaum Boulder Creek Ranch conservation easement.

Figure 1. Buxbaum Boulder Creek Ranch.

